

# The Progressive Era

## Pre-Test

**Directions:** Read the following statements and circle whether they are true or false.

1. The Gilded Age was a pleasant and successful time for all Americans.  
True                      False
2. Most politicians were not in favor of rewarding those whom supported their election campaign.  
True                      False
3. Journalism played a significant role in the spread of the Progressive movement by exposing corruption in government and businesses.  
True                      False
4. The factories at this time were kept in safe and healthy conditions.  
True                      False
5. Part of the Progressive reform included altering the election process.  
True                      False
6. Women temporarily lost the right to vote during the early 1900s.  
True                      False
7. Progressive leaders supported destroying many natural resources.  
True                      False
8. The federal income tax was added to the U.S. Constitution.  
True                      False
9. The business practices at this time were considered unfair.  
True                      False
10. Jane Addams was one of the co-founders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.  
True                      False

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# The Progressive Era

## Video Quiz

**Directions:** Read the following statements, and circle whether they are true or false.

1. During the Progressive Era, the work week was limited to thirty to forty hours per week.  
True                      False
2. Muckrakers were republicans who refused to support their party's presidential candidate because they opposed reform.  
True                      False
3. Political groups of the early 1900s included Progressives, Populists and Socialists.  
True                      False
4. The issues of the Progressive Era are no longer present today.  
True                      False
5. Jacob Riis led a reform in Wisconsin to help improve his state's government.  
True                      False
6. Jane Addams co-founded a settlement house to solve neighborhood problems.  
True                      False
7. In 1919, the 19th amendment to the United States' Constitution was ratified, providing suffrage for women.  
True                      False
8. Upton Sinclair brought the horror of Chicago's meat packing factories to the public's attention.  
True                      False
9. Woodrow Wilson became President as a result of Taft and Roosevelt's battle with one another.  
True                      False
10. One of the main reforms of the Progressive Era was the successful improvement of American civil rights.  
True                      False

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## Post-Test

1. Which of the following acts created a federal civil service in which federal workers would be hired based on competitive exams rather than political influence?
  - a. Hepburn Act
  - b. Mann-Elkins Act
  - c. Sherman Antitrust Act
  - d. Pendleton Act
2. The process of rewarding political supports with lucrative government jobs was called
  - a. trustbusters.
  - b. patronage.
  - c. trading.
  - d. Mugwumping.
3. What was the main political reform towards which the Socialists worked?
  - a. End capitalism
  - b. Stop private ownership
  - c. Create taxes to support government rather than charge tariffs
  - d. Make the government more responsive to social inequities
4. Who was responsible for informing the public of the appalling working conditions of meat packing plants?
  - a. Theodore Roosevelt
  - b. Jacob Riis
  - c. Samuel Jones
  - d. Upton Sinclair
5. How did the governor of Wisconsin, Robert M. La Follette, improve his state's government?
  - a. Enlisted experts for a council-manager form of government
  - b. Established a tax based on income
  - c. Created the first public hearing meeting
  - d. None of the above
6. For which cause did Jane Addams not provide support?
  - a. Creating a community center to solve neighborhood problems
  - b. Establishing the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
  - c. Women's suffrage
  - d. She provided support for all of the above causes
7. Who outlined the Progressive reforms of the American public and gave his presidential campaign the name, the Square Deal?
  - a. Howard Taft
  - b. Woodrow Wilson
  - c. William McKinley
  - d. Theodore Roosevelt
8. Which of these procedures were not completed by Roosevelt to secure the nation's natural resources?
  - a. Withdrew 148 million acres of forests from real-estate
  - b. Established over 50 wildlife sanctuaries
  - c. Designated areas as national parks and monuments
  - d. He completed all of these procedures
9. Which reform did Howard Taft not put into effect?
  - a. Mann-Elkins Act
  - b. 16th amendment
  - c. Both A and B
  - d. None of the above
10. What was President Woodrow Wilson's greatest achievement?
  - a. He was the first to reduce tariff rates since the Civil War
  - b. Creating the federal reserve system
  - c. Signing the Clayton Antitrust Act
  - d. Both A and B

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## Post-Test (cont.)

### Short Answer Questions

Directions: Read each of the following statements and answer in one or two sentences.

11. Describe who organized the Populist Party and state one reason why.

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12. What was the overall goal of the Progressive Era and what was the time frame?

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13. What is a direct primary and how did it improve the election process?

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14. Describe the event at the New York City garment factory that initiated the new law to protect workers from slave labor conditions.

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15. Explain one of the three ways the National American Woman Suffrage Association attempted to win the right for women to vote.

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16. Briefly describe the role of the Muckrakers during the Progressive Era.

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17. Name two of the measures Roosevelt took after being introduced to the poor conditions of factories.

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18. Discuss the advancement of American civil rights during the Progressive Era compared to the other reforms.

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## **Post-Test (cont.)**

### **Essay Questions**

**Directions:** Write a short essay in response to each statement on a separate piece of paper.

1. Choose one President who held office during the Progressive Era and explain three things he contributed to reform and why each was effective.
2. Describe the working environment for employees and the condition of factories during the Progressive Era and then explain some of the methods used to improve these situations.

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## Discussion Questions

1. Describe the problems farmers faced and how they tried to improve these conditions.
2. Discuss how writers aided in the cause for reform.
3. How did Progressives differ from the Populists and Socialists?
4. Discuss some leading Progressive reformers and the actions they took.
5. List some of the amendments of the early 1900s and how they advanced the Progressive reforms.
6. Compare and contrast the presidential administrations of Taft, Wilson, and Roosevelt in areas of Progressive reform.
7. Explain a few of the ways the government was corrupted and showed favoritism as well as what some of the reforms were.
8. Discuss some of the reforms made to the election process and the results of the changes.
9. Compare and contrast the working conditions of factories today and then.
10. Explain the measures taken to preserve America's natural resources and why they were important.

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## Vocabulary Terms

**DIRECTIONS:** Using one of the words below create a vocabulary card. Fold a piece of paper in half like a greeting card. On the front of the card draw a picture or a political cartoon that could represent the word/phrase. On the inside of the card write what the word means, what role it played in the Progressive Era, and create your own sentence using your word in the sentence. The sentence should display your understanding of the word or phrase. On the back of the card, write the word or phrase used to make the card.

### WORD LIST:

|                                |                     |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Suffrage                       | Trustbuster         |
| Prohibition                    | Direct primary      |
| The initiative                 | The recall          |
| Secret Ballot Voting           | Progressives        |
| Spoils System/Patronage        | Capitalism          |
| Mugwumps                       | Populists           |
| Socialists                     | Muckrakers          |
| Hull House                     | Square Deal         |
| <u>The Jungle</u>              | Pendleton Act       |
| Hepburn Act                    | Meat Inspection Act |
| Pure Food and Drug Act         | NAACP               |
| Clayton Antitrust Act          | Bull Moose Party    |
| The New Freedom                | The Square Deal     |
| Amendments to the Constitution |                     |

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## Dear Family

**Pretend you are an immigrant in the U.S in the early 1900s and are hired to work in a factory in order to pay your bills. You have been working a month now and have decided to write a letter to your family back home about what life is like in America so far.**

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The left edge of the paper shows some slight shadowing, suggesting it's part of a bound notebook or folder.

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## Comparing Strikes

**DIRECTIONS:** The labor conditions during the Progressive Era were not as the workers liked, so they went on strike and demanded changes. Workers today also go on strike to impact changes in their working conditions. Complete the following chart comparing the labor strikes of the Progressive Era to present-day labor strikes. You will need to research information on a recent labor strike in order to finish the chart accurately.

|  | Progressive Era | Present Day |
|--|-----------------|-------------|
| What was the name of the company?          |                 |             |
| What were the demands of the labor strike? |                 |             |
| What was the outcome of the labor strike?  |                 |             |
| Was the government involved?               |                 |             |
| Additional Information                     |                 |             |

**\*\*Possible website contains links to newspapers around the nation for the latest news.**  
<http://www.newspaperlinks.com/home.cfm>

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## Child Labor Laws

**DIRECTIONS:** Though child labor laws are strictly enforced today, they did not exist during the Progressive Era. Research some of the child labor laws that have been created. Write a brief paragraph that describes the Progressive Era and today's standards for child labor.

### Progressive Era Standards

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### Today's Standards

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**\*\*Possible Website with current child labor laws from the U.S. Dept. of Labor**  
**<http://www.dol.gov/dol/esa/public/youth>**

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## Jane Addams

**DIRECTIONS:** Jane Addams dedicated her life to improving the lives of others. She supported woman's suffrage, helped immigrants adjust to the US, and fought to improve civil rights for African Americans. Imagine Jane Addams is coming to your hometown. Your class would like to show Addams all the improvements you would like to make to your town similar to the great efforts she demonstrated during the Progressive Era. Brainstorm at least three issues you would like to improve and a possible solution for each one.

**First Issue:**

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**Possible Solution:**

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**Second Issue:**

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**Possible Solution:**

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**Third Issue:**

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**Possible Solution:**

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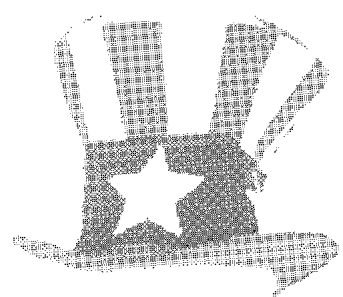
## The Progressive Era

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### Presidential Election

**DIRECTIONS:** It is 1912 and you want to run for the office of President of the United States. Howard Taft, Woodrow Wilson, and Theodore Roosevelt are your opposing candidates. You must create a campaign that states where you stand on the current reforms of your nation during the Progressive Era. Remember to recognize the concerns of the public during these times and determine several goals that you would like to achieve if you are elected President. You will need to write a speech to deliver to your fellow Americans and create a poster to help promote yourself as a candidate.

The following are guidelines to assist you in creating an appropriate campaign.



**Concerns of the public:**

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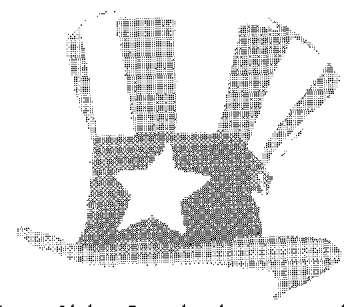
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**Possible Goals to complete once in office:**

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Now that you have some of your objectives for your speech, sketch a possible poster.



**\*\*Possible Website for additional information developed at Ohio State University looks at the issues and candidates of the 1912 presidential election. <http://1912.history.ohio-state.edu/>**